Income from sale of forest products

†*373. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH: SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be please to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ample possibilities exist to earn financial benefits and additional income from the production and sale of non-wood and other forest products;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government have undertaken the Joint Forest Management Programme; and

(d) if so, at which places this programme has been undertaken, so far?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The National Forest Policy, 1988 provides the basic principles for management of forests. According to the policy, the principal aim of the forest management is to ensure environmental stability and maintenance of ecological balance. The derivation of direct economic benefit is subordinate to the principal aim. The protection, improvement and enhancement of production of Minor Forest Produce with due regard to generation of employment and income has been identified as one of the essentials of forest management. The policy also stresses for sufficient provision of fodder, fuel and pasture, specifically in areas adjoining forest, in order to prevent depletion of forest beyond the sustainable limit. The Policy envisages for intensive afforestation programme with special emphasis on augmenting fuel wood production to meet requirement of the rural people.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing various centrally sponsored afforestation schemes in conformity with above principals. For sustainbale development and conservation of forest, a long term perspective plan "National Forestry Action Programme' has been prepared.

(c) and (d) It has been decided to involve village communities and Non-governmental Organisations in the regeneration, management and protection of forests through Joint Forest Management. Twenty-two states have so far adopted and programme and at present about 10.248 million hectares of forests are managed through 36,130 Joint Forests Management Committees in various States.

Ganga Action Plan

*374. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.